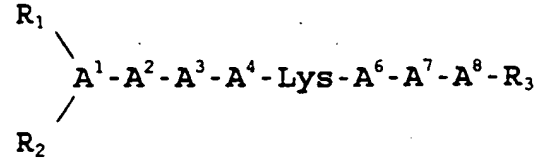
Claims

1. A compound of the formula:



wherein

A^1 is a D- or L-isomer of an aromatic amino acid, or is deleted;

A^2 is a D-isomer selected from the group consisting of of Cys, Pen, an aromatic amino acid, or an aliphatic amino acid;

A^3 is an aromatic amino acid;

A^4 is Trp or D-Trp;

A^6 is Thr, Thr(Bzl), Gly, Ser, an Eaa, or an aliphatic amino acid;

A^7 is Cys, Pen, or an aromatic or an aliphatic amino acid;

A^8 is a D- or L-isomer selected from the group consisting of Thr, Ser, an aromatic amino acid, or an aliphatic amino acid;

each of R_1 and R_2, is, independently, H or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, heterocycle, heterocycle lower alkyl, E_1SO_2 or E_1CO (where E_1 is aryl, aryl lower alkyl, heterocycle, or heterocycle lower alkyl), where said substituent is halo, lower alkyl, hydroxy, halo lower alkyl, or hydroxy lower alkyl; and

R_3 is OH, NH_2, C_{1-12} alkoxy, or NH-Y-CH_2-Z, wherein Y is a C_{1-12} hydrocarbon moiety and Z is H, OH, CO_2H, or $CONH_2$, or R_3, together with the carbonyl group of A^8 attached thereto, are reduced to form H, lower alkyl, or hydroxy lower alkyl; provided if A^2 is D-Cys or D-Pen, and A^7 is Cys or Pen, then a disulfide bond links the sidechains of A^2 and A^7, and if A^1 is

D-Phe or p-NO_2-Phe; A^2 is D-Cys; A^3 is Phe or Tyr; A^6 is Thr or Val; and A^7 is Cys; then A^8 is β-Nal.

2. A compound of claim 1, wherein A^2 is D-Cys, A^7 is Cys, and A^4 is D-Trp.

3. A compound of claim 2, wherein A^1 is an L-aromatic amino acid.

4. A compound of claim 3, wherein A^1 and A^3, independently, is β-Nal, o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), F_5-Phe, Trp, Dip, 2-Pal, Tyr(Bzl), His, Igl, Tyr(I), Bta, Bip, Npa, or Pal; A^6 is Thr, Ser, Tle, Thr(Bzl), Abu, Ala, Ile, Leu, Gly, Nle, β-Ala, Gaba, or Val; and A^8 is the D- or L-isomer of Thr, Dip, F_5-Phe, p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), Igl, Tyr(Bzl), or β-Nal.

5. A compound of claim 4, wherein A^1 is β-Nal, Npa, Igl, Phe, p-F-Phe, Trp, p-Cl-Phe, or p-CN-Phe; A^3 is Tyr, Tyr(I), or Pal; A^6 is Val, Tle, Nle, Ile, or Leu; A^8 is p-F-Phe, β-Nal, Tyr, Dip, p-Cl-Phe, Igl, or p-CN-Phe; R_1 is H, CH_3CO, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl, or 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl; R_2 is H; and R_3 is NH_2.

6. A compound of claim 5, wherein A^3 is Pal.

7. A compound of claim 4 of the formula:

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2 (V);

(H)-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Pen-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Pen-β-Nal-NH_2; or

H_2-Phe-D-Pen-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Pen-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-Dip-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Dip-NH_2;

H_2-F_5-Phe-D-Cys-His-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-F_5-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-Dip-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-m-F-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-m-F-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-o-F-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-o-F-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-p-F-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-p-F-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-F_5-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-F_5-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-F_5-Phe-D-Cys-2-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-F_5-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-His-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-D-Dip-NH_2;

H_2-Dip-D-Cys-His-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Dip-D-Cys-His-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Dip-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-His-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Trp-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-D-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-D-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-D-p-F-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Tle-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-p-F-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Nle-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Ile-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Gly-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Ala-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Leu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Bip-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Ile-Cys-Bip-NH_2;

H_2-p-F-Phe-D-Cys-His-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-p-F-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-Npa-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Tyr-NH_2;

H_2-m-F-Phe-D-Cys-His-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-m-F-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-o-F-Phe-D-Cys-His-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-o-F-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Dip-NH_2;

H_2-Cpa-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Cpa-NH_2;

H_2-Igl-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Igl-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-D-Dip-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-3-I-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-p-CN-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-p-CN-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-D-Dip-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Bta-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-p-F-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Tle-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-Bpa-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Bpa-NH_2;

H_2-Iph-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Iph-NH_2;

H_2-Trp-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Tle-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-p-Cl-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-p-Cl-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Tle-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-p-Cl-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Tle-Cys-p-Cl-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-p-Cl-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Cha-Cys-p-Cl-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-p-Cl-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr(I)-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-p-Cl-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-p-Cl-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr(I)-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
H_2-p-Cl-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr(I)-D-Trp-Lys-Tle-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
H_2-p-F-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr(I)-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
H_2-p-F-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr(I)-D-Trp-Lys-Tle-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
H_2-p-NO_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
H_2-p-NO_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-D-Trp-Lys-Thr(Bzl)-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-p-NO_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-D-Trp-Lys-Thr(Bzl)-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-p-NO_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Tyr-NH_2;
H_2-p-NO_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-p-NO_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;
H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-D-Trp-Lys-Thr(Bzl)-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2; or
(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-D-Trp-Lys-Thr(Bzl)-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-NH_2; or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A compound of claim 2, wherein A^1 is a D-aromatic amino acid.

9. A compound of claim 8, wherein A^1 is D-β-Nal, D-o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), D-p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), D-m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), D-F_5-Phe, D-Trp, D-Dip, D-2-Pal, D-Tyr(Bzl), D-His, D-Igl, D-Tyr(I), D-Bta, D-Bip, D-Npa, or D-Pal; A^3 is β-Nal, o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), p-X-Phe

(where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), F_5-Phe, Trp, Dip, 2-Pal, Tyr(Bzl), His, Igl, Tyr(I), Bta, Bip, Npa, or Pal; A^6 is Thr, Ser, Tle, Thr(Bzl), Abu, Ala, Ile, Leu, Gly, Nle, β-Ala, Gaba, or Val; and A^8 is the D- or L-isomer of Thr, Dip, F_5-Phe, p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), Igl, Tyr(Bzl), or β-Nal.

10. A compound of claim 9, wherein A^1 is D-β-Nal, D-Npa, D-Igl, D-Phe, D-p-F-Phe, D-Trp, D-p-Cl-Phe, or D-p-CN-Phe; A^3 is Tyr, Tyr(I), or Pal; A^6 is Val, Tle, Nle, Ile, or Leu; A^8 is p-F-Phe, β-Nal, Tyr, Dip, p-Cl-Phe, Igl, or p-CN-Phe; R_1 is H, CH_3CO, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl, or 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl; R_2 is H; and R_3 is NH_2.

11. A compound of claim 10, wherein A^3 is Pal.

12. A compound of claim 8, of the formula:

H_2-D-Phe-D-Pen-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-D-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-D-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-D-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-D-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-D-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-D-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-D-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-D-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-D-p-F-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-D-p-F-Phe-NH_2;

H_2-D-Bip-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-D-Dip-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-D-p-F-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Tle-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-D-p-Cl-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Tle-Cys-p-Cl-Phe-NH_2;

p-NO_2-D-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr(Bzl)-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-NH_2;

p-NO_2-D-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-p-NO_2-D-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr(Bzl)-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-NH_2; or

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-p-NO_2-D-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Tyr(Bzl)-NH_2; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. A compound of claim 2, wherein A^1 is deleted, R^1 is substituted or unsubstituted E_1CO, and R_2 is H.

14. A compound of claim 13, wherein R_1 is substituted or unsubstituted E_1CO (where E_1 is phenyl, β-naphthylmethyl, β-pyridinylmethyl, or 3-indolylmethyl); A^3 is β-Nal, o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), F_5-Phe, Trp, Dip, 2-Pal, Tyr(Bzl), His, Igl, Tyr(I), Bta, Bip, Npa, or Pal; A^6 is Thr, Ser, Tle, Thr(Bzl), Abu, Ala, Ile, Leu, Gly, Nle, β-Ala, Gaba, or Val; and A^8 is the D- or L-isomer of Thr, Dip, F_5-Phe, p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), Igl, Tyr(Bzl), or β-Nal.

15. A compound of claim 14, wherein R_1 is E_1CO (where E_1 is 4-hydroxy-phenyl, β-naphthylmethyl, or phenyl); A^3 is Tyr, Tyr(I), or Pal; A^6 is Val, Tle, Nle, Ile, or Leu; A^8 is p-F-Phe, β-Nal, Tyr, Dip, p-Cl-Phe, Igl, or p-CN-Phe; R_3 is NH_2.

16. A compound of claim 15, wherein A^3 is Pal.

17. A compound of claim 14, of the formula

(H)(3-phenylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-phenylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-phenylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-phenylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-phenylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(3-phenylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(3-phenylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(3-phenylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(3-[2-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-[2-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-[2-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-[2-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-[2-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(3-[2-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(3-[2-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(3-[2-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(3-[p-hydroxyphenyl])-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(3-naphthyl]propionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(3-phenylylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-β-Nal-NH_2; or

(H)(3-phenylylpropionyl)-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-Thr-NH_2; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. A compound of claim 2, wherein R_3, together with the carbonyl group of A^8 attached thereto, are reduced to form H, lower alkyl, or hydroxy lower alkyl.

19. A compound of claim 18, wherein A^1 is the D- or L-isomer of β-Nal, o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), F_5-Phe, Trp, Dip, 2-Pal, Tyr(Bzl), His, Igl, Tyr(I), Bta, Bip, Npa, or Pal; A^3 is β-Nal, o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), F_5-Phe, Trp, Dip, 2-Pal, Tyr(Bzl), His, Igl, Tyr(I), Bta, Bip, Npa, or Pal; A^6 is Thr, Ser, Tle, Thr(Bzl), Abu, Ala, Ile, Leu, Gly, Nle, β-Ala, Gaba, or Val; and A^8 is the D- or L-isomer of Thr, Dip, F_5-Phe, p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), Igl, Tyr(Bzl), or β-Nal.

20. A compound of claim 19, wherein A^1 is the D- or L-isomer of β-Nal, Phe, p-F-Phe, Trp, p-Cl-Phe, or p-CN-Phe; A^3 is Tyr, Tyr(I), or Pal; A^6 is Val, Tle, Nle, Ile, or Leu; A^8 is p-F-Phe, β-Nal, Tyr, Dip, p-Cl-Phe, Igl, or p-CN-Phe; R_1 is

H, CH_3CO, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl, or 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl; R_2 is H, and R_3, together with the carboxy group of A^8 attached thereto, are reduced to form H or CH_3OH.

21. A compound of claim 20, wherein A^3 is Pal.

22. A compound of claim 19, of the formula:

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

H(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl) ethylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl) ethylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl) ethylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(CH_3CO)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl) Phe-D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-2R-(2-naphthyl)ethylamide;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide; or

H_2-Phe-D-Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Abu-Cys-2R,3R-(2-hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxy)propylamide; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. A compound of claim 1, wherein A^2 is a D-aromatic amino acid or a D-aliphatic amino acid, A^7 is an aromatic amino acid or an aliphatic amino acid, and A^4 is D-Trp.

24. A compound of claim 23, wherein A^1 is an L- amino acid and A^2 is a D-aromatic amino acid.

25. A compound of claim 24, wherein A^1, A^3, and A^7 independently, is β-Nal, o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo,

OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), F_5-Phe, Trp, Dip, 2-Pal, Tyr(Bzl), His, Igl, Tyr(I), Bta, Bip, Npa, or Pal; A^2 is D-β-Nal, D-o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), D-p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), D-m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), D-F_5-Phe, D-Trp, D-Dip, D-2-Pal, D-Tyr(Bzl), D-His, D-Igl, D-Tyr(I), D-Bta, D-Bip, D-Npa, or D-Pal; A^6 is Thr, Ser, Tle, Thr(Bzl), Abu, Ala, Ile, Leu, Gly, Nle, β-Ala, Gaba, or Val; and A^8 is the D- or L-isomer of Thr, Dip, F_5-Phe, p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), Igl, Tyr(Bzl), or β-Nal.

26. A compound of claim 25, wherein A^1 is β-Nal or Phe, A^2 is D-Cpa or D-Phe; A^3 is Phe or Tyr; A^6 is Abu, Thr, or Val; A^7 is Phe; and A^8 is Thr; R_1 is H, CH_3CO, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl, or 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl; R_2 is H; and R_3 is NH_2.

27. A compound of claim 25 of the formula:

H_2-Phe-D-Phe-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Phe-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-Phe-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(CH_3CO)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-β-Nal-NH_2;

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylacetyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-β-Nal-NH_2; or

(H)(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl)-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-β-Nal-NH_2;

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-β-Nal-NH_2; or

H_2-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. A compound of claim 23, wherein A^1 is a D-amino acid and A^2 is a D-aromatic amino acid.

29. A compound of claim 28, wherein A^1 and A^2, independently, is D-β-Nal, D-o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), D-p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), D-m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), D-F_5-Phe, D-Trp, D-Dip, D-2-Pal, D-Tyr(Bzl), D-His, D-Igl, D-Tyr(I), D-Bta, D-Bip, D-Npa, or D-Pal; A^3 and A^7, independently, is β-Nal, o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), F_5-Phe, Trp, Dip, 2-Pal, His, Igl, Tyr(I), Bta, Bip, Npa, Tyr(Bzl), or Pal; A^6 is Thr, Ser, Tle, Thr(Bzl), Abu, Ala, Ile, Leu, Gly, Nle, β-Ala, Gaba, or Val; and A^8 is the D- or L-isomer of Thr, Dip, F_5-Phe, p-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), o-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), m-X-Phe (where X is H, OH, CH_3, halo, OCH_3, NH_2, CN, or NO_2), Igl, Tyr(Bzl), or β-Nal.

30. A compound of claim 29, wherein A^1 is D-β-Nal or D-Phe; A^2 is D-Cpa or D-Phe; A^3 is Phe or Tyr; A^6 is Thr or Val; A^7 is Phe; and A^8 is Thr; R_1 is H, CH_3CO, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl) -1-piperazinylacetyl, or 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperizineethanesulfonyl; R_2 is H; and R_3 is NH_2.

31. A compound of claim 29 of the formula:

H_2-D-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-D-β-Nal-D-Phe-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-D-Phe-D-Phe-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2;

H_2-D-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-Thr-NH_2; or

H_2-D-β-Nal-D-Cpa-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Phe-β-Nal-NH_2; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.